Drop mixture in a thin layer over the specimens on the cover glass; heat through the flame. The alcohol ignites and is permitted to burn off, after which the specimen is washed in water and dried. The entire process takes 20-25 seconds, and the stain remains serviceable for any length of time. Polar bodies appear deep blue and the bacilli bright red. Even in smears with a preponderance of other bacteria, individual diphtheria bacilli may be readily and unmistakably identified.

### A NEW TECHNIC IN STAINING DIPHTHERIA SPECIMENS WITH TOLUIDIN BLUE

Dr. Constant Ponder (Lancet, July 6, 1912; Abstr. U. S. Naval Med. Bull. Oct. 1912, p. 612) recommends the following treatment for diphtheria bacilli:—

The stain:

| | |
|---|---|
| Toluidin blue (Grübler) | 0.02 gram. |
| Glacial acetic acid | 1 cc. |
| Abs. Alc. | 2 " |
| Distilled Water to make | 100 " |

The film made on cover glass is fixed as usual. Spread stain on film. The cover glass is then turned over and mounted as a hang-drop preparation. Typical diphtheria bacilli are said to stain blue, with red granules. The author gives this as a new method, and says it is preferable to either Methylene blue or Neisser's stain.

### NOTES FROM MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY, *Chicago, Oct. 10, 1912*

Mr. N. S. Amstutz showed a useful contrivance for keeping pond life in place. It consisted of a piece of brass about 7/8 in. square and 5/32 in. thick. A series of seven holes were drilled thru it so as to imprison that many varieties of pond life at one time. The plate was placed in a flat bottomed watch glass and each specimen transferred with a pipette to its proper "cell." These could be then studied at will very nicely with a 2/3 objective and various combinations of oculars. The specimens were confined laterally so they were unable to move out of the field of view though having abundant room for vertical movement. With the coarse ad-